ST. MARY'S HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE NEW YORK VOLLEYBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO (January 8, 2024) — In its 39th year of honoring the nation's most elite high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Carson Tyler** of **St. Mary's High School** is the **2023-24 Gatorade New York Volleyball Player of the Year**. Tyler is the second Gatorade New York Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from St. Mary's High School.

The award, which celebrates the nation's top high school athletes for excellence on the court, in the classroom and in the community, distinguishes Tyler as New York's best high school volleyball player. From CEOs and coaches to star athletes, Gatorade Player of the Year winners showcase the power of sport, touting an all-star group of alumni that includes Harper Murray (2022-23, Skyline High School, Mich.), Kerri Walsh Jennings (1995-96, Archbishop Mitty High School, Calif.) and April Ross (1999-00, Newport Harbor High School, Calif.).

The 5-foot-11 senior outside hitter led the Lancers to a 50-2 record and a third straight Catholic High School Athletic Association state title this season. She racked up 581 kills (averaging 5.0 per set), 83 aces, 59 blocks and 353 digs, leading her team in each category, also posted a hitting percentage of .469 along with a .565 kill percentage.

Tyler has volunteered locally with VolleyTots youth volleyball clinics and at school events. She also has donated her time to dog rescue groups. "Carson is the best player to come out of New York State in the last 10-plus years," said Our Lady of Mercy School for Young Women head coach CJ Denk. "She is a dominant offensive player and also a skilled defender and passer. Carson Tyler makes every player around her better with her effort, skill and hustle."

Tyler has maintained an A average in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play volleyball on scholarship at Ball State University in the fall.

The <u>Gatorade Player of the Year</u> program annually recognizes one winner in the District of Columbia and each of the 50 states that sanction high school football, girls volleyball, boys and girls cross country, boys and girls basketball, boys and girls soccer, baseball, softball, and boys and girls track & field, and awards one National Player of the Year in each sport. The selection process is administered by the Gatorade Player of the Year Selection Committee, which leverages experts including coaches, scouts, media and others as sources to help evaluate and determine the state winners in each sport.

Tyler joins recent Gatorade New York Volleyball Players of the Year Amya Davis (2022-23, Hendrick Hudson High School), Emma Werkmeister (2021-22, Victor Senior High School), Carlie Rzeszotarski (2020-21, Burnt Hills-Ballston Lake High School) and Mychael Vernon (2019-20, Ossining High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

As part of Gatorade's commitment to breaking down barriers in sport, every Player of the Year also receives a grant to donate to a social impact partner. To date, Gatorade Player of the Year winners' grants have totaled more than \$4.9 million across more than 1,600 organizations.

To learn more about the Gatorade Player of the Year program, check out past winners or to nominate studentathletes, visit playeroftheyear.gatorade.com or follow us on social media on Facebook at <u>facebook.com/GatoradePOY</u>, Instagram at <u>instagram.com/Gatorade</u> and Twitter at <u>twitter.com/Gatorade</u>.

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